

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Concurrently filed herewith is a Submission of Replacement Formal Drawings that includes 13 sheets of drawings. Of these 13 sheets, Figs. 16-19 have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art," as required by the Office Action.

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda (US 6178155).

Claims 3-5 stand objected to as being dependent upon claim 2.

The Title of the Invention is objected to as being non-descriptive.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 3-5 contain allowable subject matter, and that claim 1 is allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have amended claims 2 and 4, and canceled claim 3. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are pending for consideration. In addition, Applicants have amended the Title.

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a Submission of Replacement Formal Drawings including 13 sheets of drawings containing 22 drawing figures to be substituted for the originally-filed drawing sheets in the above-identified application. Applicant has amended originally-filed FIGs. 16-19 to include the legend "Prior Art," as required by the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by the replacement drawings.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueda (US 6178155). Without acquiescing to the Examiner's position that claims 2 and 6 are unpatentable over Ueda, Applicants have amended independent claim 2 to incorporate the allowable features of claim 3, and canceled claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 2, as presently amended, as well as claims 4-6, are allowable over Ueda.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are now in immediate condition for allowance, and respectfully request receipt of a Notice of Allowance in the next communication from the Office.


CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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